



# Southwold Primary School

## HIGHLIGHTS

3rd November 2023

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Thank you to all parents who supported children with the homework projects in preparation for the upcoming learning this half term, particularly learning important topic-based words. A broad, rich vocabulary; the words we recognise and know how to use allows a child to understand and enjoy the things they read, to learn about the world around them, and to express themselves and their thoughts so that people will listen. Research suggests that a strong vocabulary in childhood is linked to future success and happiness, both at school and in later life. Look out for the curriculum newsletter which was sent home in book bags last term for an overview of the curriculum coverage. This will help you to continue talking about school learning with your child at home.

This week we have had the finals of our Federation Spelling Bee competition with finalists from all three schools travelling to Orchard Primary School to put their spelling skills to the test. Children were given words to spell correctly out loud. This has caused much excitement amongst the children and we are looking forward to hosting more Federation-focused competitions later this year.

This half term you will receive your child's termly report at Parents' Evening on Thursday 7th December 2023. This will give more information about achievements so far, as well as learning targets for the upcoming term. Letters inviting you to parents' evening along with details of the online booking system will be sent home in the coming two weeks. We are keen to make sure that all parents meet with class teachers and discuss their child's progress, as well as take up the opportunity to look through their workbooks and celebrate their hard work. If you are finding it difficult to make an appointment, please call the school office who will be happy to help you. School contact details can be found on the reverse of this newsletter.

We work very hard to be a smart school where children can feel proud. An important part of this is our school uniform. As the weather gets colder please remember that children are expected to wear black school shoes and not boots as these are not safe when they are moving around the school and in the playground. If you would like your children to wear boots when travelling to and from school then they must also bring their school shoes to change into when they arrive. At different points in the day, children may remove jumpers which can easily be misplaced in busy classrooms. As well as making sure all uniform has your child's full name, please can you also check that items belong to your child and have not been picked up by accident. We ask that any items that are not yours be returned to class and to their rightful owners the next school day.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) have been talking about road safety and have identified some important reminders for our community. Children learn by watching adults, so please help us to set a good example by taking care whilst crossing the road and remind your child of these basic road safety messages: always stop, look, and listen whilst crossing the road, always find a safe place to cross the road such as zebra crossing or puffin crossing, always hold your child's hand whilst walking and crossing the road.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Ms Rachael Carr - Headteacher | Ms Rachel Davie - Executive Headteacher**

### In this issue:

Headteacher's Letter  
School Shoes  
Cycling Survey  
Celebrating Different Cultures with EYFS  
Constructing Circuits with Year 2  
Tag Rugby Festival with Years, 3 & 4  
Hackney Food Bank Donation  
International Evening Celebration  
Coffee Mornings  
Attendance  
Key Dates

### School Shoes

Smart shoes for school please.  
We expect children to wear comfortable black school shoes.  
No boots or trainers please!



### Cycling Survey

Is your child interested in joining a once weekly 'bike bus', which is an organised group cycle ride to school every Wednesday? If so, please scan the QR code below to complete a brief survey. Our Cycling Champions will then be in touch.



### Celebrating Cultures

As part of world week, EYFS discussed different countries around the world. Children were able to identify the country they were from using the map they made. Some children wore their own cultural outfits. They also enjoyed engaging in a Bollywood dance workshop.



### Constructing Circuits

Year 2 have been learning how to construct electrical circuits. They have learnt about how electricity travels and how the components are used in a circuit. They have used different equipment to make working circuits and have been excited to see their bulbs light up.



### Tag Rugby Festival

Children in Years 3 and 4 participated in a Tag Rugby festival led by Hackney Rugby Football Club. They had great fun learning how to play the game then had the opportunity to play matches against the other schools in attendance.



## Hackney Food Bank Donation

The Hackney Foodbank were amazed by the generosity of the Southwold community when they came to collect the Harvest Festival donations. Even with so many hands it took over two trips to bring all the goods out. We managed to donate 155.15 kg of food which will contribute to 16 3-day emergency parcels.



## International Evening

Children and their families enjoyed a fantastic International Evening filled with food, face painting, fashion parade, tattoos and entertainment to celebrate our cultural diversity. Thank you to all that donated delicious home cooked food, the choir for a confident performance and our guest musicians Abdoulaye Samb and Flotsam Sessions.



## Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in Raven Room or the Lower Hall at 9:15am on a Friday morning. These are an opportunity to meet with other parents as well as learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 3rd November	<u>Phonics</u> : What are the different Phases of phonics and how can I support my child at home? Raven Room
Friday 10th November	<u>Behaviour</u> : How does the school promote a culture of kindness? Raven Room
Friday 17th November	<u>Spelling and Vocabulary</u> : How do I help my child to learn their spellings ready for their weekly spelling test?(Children can attend this coffee morning) Lower Hall
Friday 24th November	<u>Wellbeing</u> : What tools and strategies can I teach my child to support their mental health? Raven Room
Friday 1st December	<u>Eco</u> : How do we teach children about sustainability? (Children can attend this coffee morning) Lower Hall
Friday 8th December	<u>Christmas Holiday Activities</u> : What activities can we try in the holidays and what local places can we visit? (Children can attend this coffee morning) Lower Hall
EYFS Workshops (9:00am in the Lower Hall)	
Thursday 23rd November	<u>Maths</u> : How can I develop my child's mathematical understanding at home?

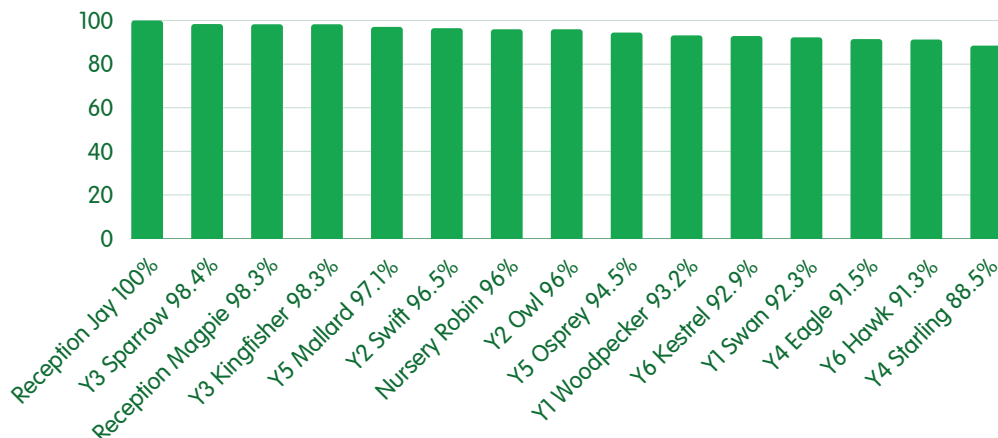
## Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 94.8%.

Well done to Reception Jay Class, last week's winner with 100%.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



## Key Dates

### AUTUMN TERM (2) 2023

Nursery and Reception DT Morning - in classrooms  
Tuesday 7th November.  
(Parent helpers welcome from 8:55am)

Years 1 & 2 DT Day - in classrooms  
Tuesday 7th November all day.  
(Parent helpers welcome from 1:30pm)

Year 3 Kingfisher Class Assembly - Middle Hall  
Year 3 Sparrow Class Assembly - Top Hall  
Wednesday 8th November at 9:05am.

Year 6 DT Day - in classrooms  
Friday 10th November all day.  
(Parent helpers welcome from 1:30pm)

Year 1 Swan Class Assembly - Middle Hall  
Year 1 Woodpecker Class Assembly - Top Hall  
Wednesday 15th November at 9:05am.

Years 3, 4 & 5 DT Day - in classrooms  
Thursday 16th November  
(Parent helpers welcome from 1:30pm)

Odd Socks / Anti-Bullying Day - in school  
Friday 17th November all day.

Year 2 Swift Class Assembly - Middle Hall  
Year 2 Owl Class Assembly - Top Hall  
Wednesday 29th November at 9:05am.

Parents' Evening - School Finishes at 1:45pm  
**Thursday 7th December**

EYFS, Year 1 & 2 Pantomime - in school  
(Pupils only)  
Monday 11th December at 9:30am.

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 Pantomime - Hackney Empire  
(Ticket Holders Only)  
Wednesday 13th December in the afternoon.

Parent Reading Celebration for EYFS, Years 1 & 2  
Friday 15th December at 9:15am in the Lower Hall

Winter Warmer Event - Main Playground  
Tuesday 19th December at 3:30pm - 4:30pm.

Christmas Jumper Day & Lunch  
(Pupils only)  
Tuesday 19th December.

Last Day of Term  
Wednesday 20th December  
School finishes at 2:00pm.

INSET Days  
Thursday 21st December 2023  
Monday 8th January 2024

Children Return to School  
Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 8:55am.

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